

The Year 1945

From the Journal of Andrew Fjeld

The year 1945 is the most eventful year that I have ever lived. It has been filled with stupendous events of a national and international character as well as Church events of great importance.

1st. End of World War II, the greatest war of all time. Germany surrendered May 7th, and Japan decided to lay down their arms August 14th, bringing to a close this most terrible destruction of lives and property.

2nd. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, of the United States dies very unexpectedly Thursday, April 12th., and Harry Truman of Missouri who had never aspired to even the Vice Presidency, becomes president.

3rd. After a very spirited political campaign in England in July, Winston Churchill the most prominent man in all England, went down to defeat and Attlee, a labor leader is now the Premiere of England. So much for national and international events which have in their wake many far reaching repercussions.

4th. President Heber J. Grant of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints dies on May 14, at the age of 88 years. On the following Monday, May 21st, George Albert Smith was selected and set apart as Prophet, Seer and Revelator and President of the Church, by the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, in a special meeting in the Temple.

5th. During this year a turnover in the general presidency of the Relief Society took place. Amy Brown Lyman, who had served as president for so many years, was released and Bella S. Spafford was put in as the President of the Relief Society of the Church.

6th. Another change this year was the resignation of Franklin S. Harris as the President of the Brigham Young University, and the appointment of Howard S. McDonald, an outstanding educator, as the new president of this great Church School. Franklin S. Harris is the new president of the Agricultural College in Logan.

7th. A local event I might mention is the change of Bishops in the 4th Ward. Lionel Larsen released and the appointment of L.M. Norberg as Bishop. Also the release of Eleazer Southwick as Stake Sunday School Superintendent and the appointment of Dean Worlton.

8th. Two interesting Church events have taken place this year. The dedication of the Idaho Falls Temple, September 23, 24, and 25th, and the Solemn Assembly, held October 5th, when George Albert Smith was voted for by the body of the Church for the first time as the President of the Church.